

west of Nashville and north of the Cumberland River as Cheatham County. It was named after Speaker of the State Senate, Edward Saunders Cheatham. Ashland City was established as the county seat. After the sale of the first town lots, the county was able to build its first courthouse and jail on the public square, where they stand today.

Cheatham County is the third fastest growing county in the State; today more than 38,000 people call it home. It is also a center of commercial and industrial growth with A.O. Smith Water Products, Triton Boats and Trinity Marine as the county's top three industrial employers. While agricultural production has declined in recent times, many Cheatham County farmers remain major contributors in the beef and tobacco sectors. Despite all the growth and industry, Cheatham County's beautiful rolling green hills are preserved in the Cheatham Wildlife Management Area, a 21,000 acre game reserve for hunting and fishing.

One of Cheatham County's most notable citizens was the late Redd Stewart, a singer and songwriter who wrote our state song, the "Tennessee Waltz." This week, the events of Redd Stewart Homecoming Days will pay tribute to the musician with two days of free bluegrass concerts. In addition, Cheatham County residents will commemorate the sesquicentennial anniversary at Summerfest in Ashland City. We'll get together at Riverbluff Park on the Cumberland River to share good times as our Cheatham County founders did: eating home-cooked food, playing games and dancing to old time bluegrass music.

I am proud to honor all the generations of Cheatham County families who have contributed so much to this special place. I join with everyone in Tennessee's Fifth District in commemorating Cheatham County's 150th anniversary, and I commend County Mayor Bill Orange and today's residents for ensuring that Cheatham County remains a community where folks can live, work and raise future generations of great Tennesseans.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. EDA HARRIS-HASTICK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York community.

Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick is a tenured Associate Professor of Social Work at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. A trained clinical social worker with over 30 years experience in alcoholism and substance abuse services and administration, she has also served as Assistant Chief of Alcoholism Services at Harlem Hospital Center and is a former Administrator at New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services.

Dr. Harris-Hastick began her career at Medgar in 1984 in the dual capacity of Director of College Counseling Services and Chairperson of Special Programs. Since that time, she has initiated several innovative programs to assist students including an Emergency Fi-

nancial Assistance Fund to aid students in financial crisis (1984), the Rose Ross Scholarship Fund for students interested in social work and/or social welfare, in memory of a former social work colleague (1998), and has served as the MEC Coordinator for the CUNY-wide Substance Abuse Information and Referral Services Unit. As director of the MEC Academic Success Center, Dr. Harris-Hastick supervised academic advisors and counselors, and in collaboration with the OAA, initiated creative strategies to implement counselor training, centralize and streamline the college's academic advisement and counseling services programs that were later expanded into a separate unit to serve students in a more comprehensive manner. A recipient of numerous research grants and academic awards, she has been engaged in several community initiatives and international health and mental health missions to the Caribbean, where she has utilized her expertise as educator, researcher and social worker to balance teaching and academic research with community service. Dr. Harris-Hastick has studied Korean and Caribbean immigrant cultures in Brooklyn and in the Caribbean and has involved students in collaborative research projects to teach research/problem solving skills in local/international community contexts. Her publications and her research continue to reflect her interest/commitment to understanding cultural differences, women's issues and public health concerns.

Dr. Harris-Hastick has completed the initial stages of the development of a Bachelor of Social Work degree. In addition, she has continued to serve as faculty advisor for the MEC Student Black Social Work Club, which she assisted in initiating in 1995. As an elected member of the City University Faculty Senate (UFS), she also serves as an elected member of the Executive Committee of the UFS. A founding member of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), she currently serves as board member of CACCI's Educational Foundation, Caribbean Research Center's Editorial Board, SUNY Downstate Medical Center Community Advisory Board, Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions Editorial Board, NYC Chapter of NASW Leadership Team, and NYS OASAS (Substance Abuse) Workforce Development.

Dr. Harris-Hastick was born on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts and has traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean where she has conducted research on substance abuse, organized training seminars and collaborated with faculty and administration at the University of the West Indies, and with social workers, health clinicians and others practitioners engaged in chemical dependency and HIV/AIDS studies, treatment and administration. Dr. Harris-Hastick's published work consists of several journal articles and a book chapter that include: *Managing Stress in Challenging Times*; *Susus: New Life for a Caribbean Grassroots Approach to Savings*; *Voices of Korean American Women*; *Substance Abuse Treatment Among English Speaking People of Caribbean Ancestry*; *The Importance of Culture in HIV/AIDS Prevention in Grenada* (with Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, Minister of Health and the Environment, Grenada, W.I.), and a forthcoming article "Substance Abuse and AIDS: Intertwined Epidemics in the Caribbean region" is nearing completion.

Dr. Harris-Hastick has received numerous awards and citations for leadership and com-

munity service. A sought after speaker, Dr. Harris-Hastick has made numerous presentations to student groups as well as local, national and international groups including business, academic, social work, civic and community organizations such as the National Conferences of NASW and NABSW, National Association of Meeting Planners, Asian American Studies Conference, Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, CACCI, and the Addiction Studies Institute. Dr. Harris-Hastick received a BA in Sociology/Anthropology from Queens College, a Masters in Social Work from Smith College, School for Social Work, and a Doctorate in Education from Columbia University.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick as she offers her talents and services for the betterment of our local and global communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

FREEDOM FOR RICARDO PUPO SIERRA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Pupo Sierra, political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Pupo Sierra is a member of the Cuban Human Rights Party and a pro-democracy activist. Mr. Pupo Sierra has been a constant advocate for human rights for those currently toiling under the nightmare of repression called the Castro regime. He has bravely denounced the cruel policies of the tyrant and demanded that the people of Cuba be allowed their inalienable rights.

Mr. Pupo Sierra was arrested by the dictatorship and, after a sham trial, thrown into the totalitarian gulag. According to Prima News, in August 2005, Mr. Pupo conducted a hunger strike to protest the abhorrent treatment of prisoners in the grotesque gulag. According to Directorio, he began a hunger strike on June 9, 2006, to demand access to religious services.

Mr. Pupo Sierra also sent this message to the Cuban people saying: "Do not be afraid of the regime. Do not allow yourself to continue being deceived: dissent. Speak the truth without fear. Do not be discouraged. We are reaching the final point of the ruling system in Cuba. We will soon have a free, democratic Cuba with the rule of law."

Mr. Pupo Sierra is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. His message exemplifies the Cuban desire to live in liberty, free of the tyrannical repression imposed on them by the murderous despot. Mr. Pupo Sierra knows the violence, abuse, and repression that will be used to try to break him. Yet he stands strong in the strength of his conviction: "We will soon have a free, democratic Cuba with the rule of law." Mr. Pupo Sierra is an apostle of freedom for Cuba.

Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that liberty and human

rights are the birthright of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. Pupo Sierra, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. Pupo Sierra is languishing in the grotesque squalor of the gulag because he desires freedom for all Cubans. My Colleagues, read his message often. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Pupo Sierra and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ROY A.
HASTICK, SR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Roy A. Hastick, Sr., a distinguished member of the Brooklyn business and civic communities. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Dr. Roy A. Hastick has served as President/CEO/Founder of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI) for almost 20 years. Under his leadership, CACCI has promoted economic development on behalf of Caribbean American, African American, women and other minority small business owners and has become an internationally recognized business organization with a membership of over 1,700 in the United States and the Caribbean. Prior to starting CACCI, Dr. Hastick published the West Indian Tribune, a tabloid newspaper which served as a launching pad for the development of the Chamber, and which became the voice for the Caribbean American Community, and a business networking vehicle.

A tireless advocate for economic and community empowerment, Dr. Hastick helped to form several immigrant organizations and served for over 16 years in various capacities including 1st Vice Chairman of his local Community Board in Crown Heights Brooklyn. He currently serves on several small business advisory boards including: the New York State Governor's and New York City Mayor's Small Business Advisory Boards which advocates on behalf of minority and women owned business; JP Morgan Chase Bank, and the board of directors of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, New York Congregational Community Services, SUNY Jobs for Youth, and American Red Cross of Brooklyn. For six years, he has served as a delegate to the United Nations.

Dr. Hastick has been an ardent supporter of Two-Way trade between the United States and the Caribbean region. As an elected delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business, he campaigned to get Two-Way trade with the region into the final recommendations submitted to the United States Congress. Under his leadership, CACCI has undertaken several extraordinary and challenging initiatives including: conducting over 600 business seminars, providing weekly business clinics for start-ups and emerging busi-

nesses to access financing, contracting and procurement opportunities; promoting trade and investment opportunities between the Caribbean and the United States, and undertaking energetic and rapid responses to hurricane disasters in the Caribbean region. For the past 3 years, CACCI has managed, Flatbush Caton Merchants Mart, a city-owned Brooklyn-based micro enterprise incubator which houses 61 vendors and occupies 9,000 sq. ft. of space. CACCI's Educational Foundation supports micro-entrepreneurship, hurricane disaster relief efforts and provides scholarships for disadvantaged young people.

Dr. Hastick has led several trade missions to the Caribbean region, hosted numerous Caribbean Head of State on their visits to the United States and made presentations at Caribbean Heads of Government meetings. Under his leadership, the development of the first ever Caribbean Trade Center, a one stop capital shop for two-way trade that will occupy 20,000 sq. ft. in a major commercial corridor in Central Brooklyn, is in its 2nd phase of development and has received financial support and commitments from the New York State Governor, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York City Council, New York City Mayor, and has been endorsed by local, national and international business entities, including CARICOM. Expected completion date is Fall 2006.

Dr. Hastick has partnered with numerous economic development entities, academic and medical institutions, national and local community groups including the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) United States Department of Commerce MBDA, NYS Empire Development Corporation, NYC Small Business Services (NYC SBS), SCORE, City University of New York (CUNY), SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Caribbean Women's Health Association, African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, and the Korean American Small Business Service Center.

He has received numerous awards including: the United States Department of Commerce and the New York State Small Business Advocate of the Year Awards; Korean American Small Business Service Center "Harmony and Unity Award"; Dr. Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award from the Shirley Chisholm Institute; Ron Brown Business Advocate Award; "Chamber of the Year Award" from the NYS Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; honored by President William Jefferson Clinton at "New York Day" in Washington, DC; "CEO of the Year 2000" from the Brooklyn Branch of the NAACP, the New York State Hispanic Legislative Task Force 2002, and the New York State Black and Puerto Rican State Senators Award. Dr. Hastick was also honored with an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa by Medgar Evers College, CUNY at its 2001 Annual Convocation Ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Roy A. Hastick, as he offers his talents and services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hastick's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic, dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
CLARENCE KEATON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in appreciation and admiration of Reverend Dr. Clarence Keaton for his continued commitment, serving as Pastor and founder of the True Worship Church Worldwide Ministries, as a spiritual leader to his congregants, peers, friends, family, and the entire community of Brooklyn, New York.

Ordained as a minister in 1983, Reverend Dr. Keaton is affectionately referred to as P.O.P. [Pastor of Pastors] by his faithful congregants because of the guidance and genuine support he offers to them through the words of God. He has specifically sought out young members, in need of a spiritual teacher, and has inspired them to fully embrace God's love while following his direction to lead an honest, devout life. In the eyes of his peers, he is known as the "preachers teacher," passionately devoted to spreading the biblical truths of the gospel. This man of god is a beacon of light for his congregation, a buttress of strength, and a source of wisdom for anyone so blessed to be in his presence and hear his voice.

Pastor Keaton was dignified with an honorary doctorate of divinity degree in 1992 by the acclaimed Jesus Saves Bible Institute. His ministry work is highlighted by his magnetic personality and encouraging speech. Pastor Keaton's inspirational teachings are broadcasted on the radio, to proclaim the guiding words of God to a greater audience. This led to his numerous commendations and awards of excellence in radio, because he is able to reach out to thousands of souls of men and women through WWRL radio station. In addition to his outstanding work in ministry, he has been honored for his extraordinary community work, specifically with the senior citizens of the Brownsville Recreation Center.

It gives me great pleasure to honor the many achievements of Reverend Dr. Clarence Keaton and offer my utmost respect for the honest work that he does out of the kindness of his heart. We pray for God's continued grace on his ministry.

SIKH, CATHOLIC LEADERS MEET

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently a group of Sikh leaders met in New York with Catholic leaders in an all-day event hosted by an Interfaith organization. Sikh leaders in attendance included Dr. Manohar Singh, Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia, and Dr. Anahat Kaur Sandhu. Monsignor Felix Machado, an official at the Vatican, also attended the meeting.

It is good to see this kind of pluralistic cooperation and I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing it to my attention.

Contrast this to the situation in India, where Sikhs, Christian, Muslims, and other minorities